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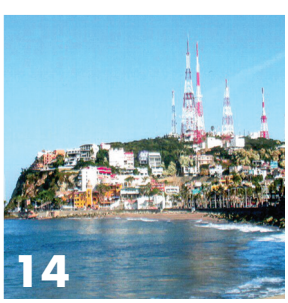
Charity Jones as Ebenezer Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* at the Guthrie Theater: a story of redemption and hope to end the year. Photo by Dan Norman



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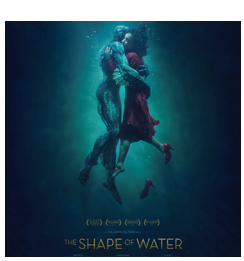

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QUEERS ON WHEELS HOSTED BY GLBT HOST HOME PROGRAM OF AVENUES FOR HOMELESS YOUTH

OCTOBER 26, 2017

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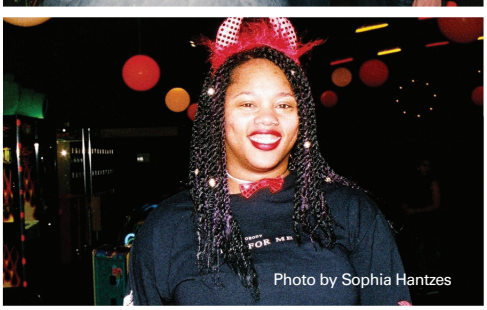
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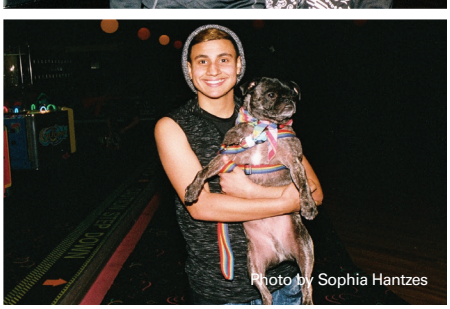
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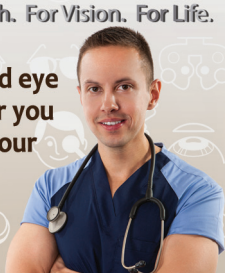
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Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus membership, board and staff would like to congratulate our Executive Director Jeff Heine on being the recipient of Lavender's Community Award. Thank you, Jeff, for your service and friendship!
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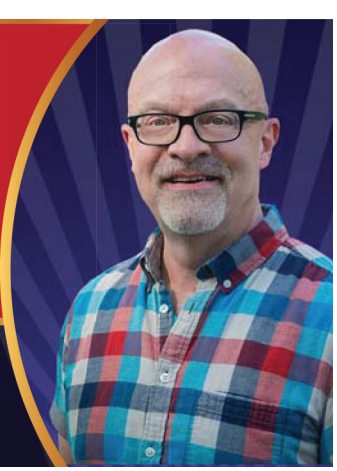

FROM THE EDITOR | BY ANDY LIEN

The Humbug Award

Ebenezer Scrooge? On the cover of the last regular issue of the year? The one that's supposed to be celebratory? The one that's about awards and accomplishments?

Yes. Because Ebenezer Scrooge is a celebratory cover figure. It's an image of redemption and hope. It's one that shows how complex people can be, how multi-faceted situations are, and how things can be so dark yet still lead into light.

In fact, I'd bet Ebenezer Scrooge would be considered for an award after finding new value in the people and conditions of that era. As Scrooge sees the errors in the ways of the past, he trips over himself to make up for them.

When we think of how people emerge as leaders, it's often under less-than-ideal circumstances. Conditions are bad. Politics are oppressing. Someone is suffering. Things need changing. And from those negative elements come some positives. At some point, someone says "Bah! Humbug!" and takes up the cause to make things better. They start or join an organization. They fight for what they want and think is right. They help others. They inspire others. They make it their occupation to turn darkness into light, or they eke out just a little more time and energy on top of their jobs and families and other activities to make things better.

In this, my favorite issue of the year, we honor them with awards. I asked you who you wanted us to know about, you answered, and in these pages are some exemplary people who are making the rainbow community better for everyone. I am so proud to feature them. And I thank them. Congratulations to the Lavender Community Award winners. We are fortunate to have you.

Also, congratulations to the artists and organizations that are given some extra limelight in John Townsend's Arts Year in Review. You have given us levity and beauty and heartbreak and learning opportunities all under the umbrella of entertainment this past year. You reflect our world and sometimes turn it inside out. This community, in particular, needs you. We need you to push the boundaries and expand how we view things. For this community especially, we need you to push the gender binary, just as indicated on our cover in Dan Norman's photo of Ebenezer Scrooge being played by Charity Jones in *A Christmas Carol* at the Guthrie as Nathaniel Fuller's understudy, as explained by E.B. Boatner later in this issue in his piece, "We Are All Ebenezer Scrooge."

In the spirit of always making things better, we've shuffled some things over here at Lavender and this is my last issue as managing editor of the magazine. I'm going to instead be editorial director of all of Lavender Media, which is really just to say that I get to refocus my time and energy to moving the company forward with digital and video while giving someone else, Chris Tarbox, the role of handling the print edition, under my supervision. Chris is an award-winning writer from the newspaper world, he's funny as hell, he's a conscientious and aware person, and we will have a lot of fun as an editorial team. He's got the heart that I want the magazine to have. We will both be working to make things even better for our audiences here at Lavender. For you.

As always, thank you for everything. For reading along, for sending in ideas, for letting us cover your stories and events, for letting us represent you. Have a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year.

With you and with thanks, Andy. ■

A WORD IN EDGEWISE | BY E.B. BOATNER

Noël, Noël

Parlous times may evoke the tragic, as in the Guthrie's recent, wrenching *Watch on the Rhine*, or, as currently bookended by Noël Coward's *Blithe Spirit*, the darkly comic.

Both opened in London in 1941, as the Blitz rained devastation. In his memoir, *Future Indefinite*, Coward wrote that he left the Hungaria restaurant on April 16 as bombs began to fall, and taxied home.

"The sky above was…red with the reflected glow of fires…there was a lot of noise and gunfire and, every so often, a shattering explosion."

He found his home in a shambles, the office ceiling lying on the floor. Two weeks later, he and actress Joyce Carey took the train up to Port Meirion in North Wales and settled in: she to write a play about Keats, and he to pen a "light comedy [that] had been rattling at the door of my mind."

By lunchtime the next day, he had the title (from Shelly's *To a Skylark*), the characters' names, and a rough plot outline. Completed in six days, only typos were changed, and only two original lines were finally cut. As Coward stated, "It would be difficult, with that situation and those characters, to go far wrong." And he was right. In the midst of chaos and death, Londoners flocked to a record 1,997 performances that outlasted the war.

Those characters are Charles and Ruth Condomine, their friends the Bradmans, and Madame Arcati, an eccentric medium (originally played by Margaret Rutherford), engaged to hold a séance for them. A presence appears, but only to Charles: it's his first wife, Elvira, dead these seven years. I will reveal here only that she does not intend to leave, and that she has plans for Charles. Disruption ensues.

Gay, sophisticated, articulate, and keen-witted, Coward, later Sir Noël, knew everyone who was anyone—Olivier, Hepburn, Guinness, neighbors Errol Flynn and Ian Fleming among them. He was a prolific playwright (*Private Lives, Design for Living*), composer, raconteur, actor (*Our Man in Havana*), and memoirist.

Anticipating objections to Blithe Spirit, leaning heavily on death and ghosts while so many of his countrymen were perishing, Coward said of his characters, "You can't sympathize with any of them. If there was a heart, it would be a sad story." ■

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FAMILY & FRIENDS | BY CHRIS TARBOX

A Helping Hand for GLBT Seniors this Holiday Season

Photo courtesy of LightField Studios

The holiday season is traditionally considered a time for friends and families to get together and enjoy each other's company, but this time of year can be especially hard for senior citizens. And it can be even worse for GLBT seniors.

According to data collected by Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE) and the Movement Advancement Project (MAP), there are more than 2.7 million GLBT adults over the age of 50 living in communities across the United States. But those organizations also found that GLBT adults over 50 are twice as likely to live alone as non-GLBT adults, and usually find themselves ostracized and vulnerable.

Furthermore, according to the Diverse Elders Coalition, GLBT older adults are less likely to have a spouse or partner, and are twice as likely to live on their own. With the holidays in full swing, organizations such as SAGE and MAP have offered a number of ways those interested can reach out to GLBT seniors and offer them support and assistance.

In November 2016, SAGE launched its Elder Hotline, operated by the GLBT National Help Center, and operated entirely by volunteers from the GLBT community. The hotline was designed to offer support, resources, and referrals to elder GLBT citizens regardless of where they reside.

The live hotline is open for calls Monday through Friday at 1-888-234-SAGE (1-888-234-7243), from 4 p.m. to midnight Eastern Standard Time, and from noon to 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on Saturdays. The hotline can also be reached online at sage@glbthotline.org.

Those wishing to be connected to services for older adults and their families can also reach out to the National Eldercare Locator, a program of the U.S. Administration on Aging, by calling 1-800-677-1116.

In the Twin Cities, a wide variety of services offering assistance to senior citizens and their caregivers are available. Based out of North St. Paul, the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging (MAAA) offers resources to older adults to connect to community resources and senior services, such as meals, respite, housing options, and Medicare. The organization also has a special Senior LinkAge Line to offer special assistance to seniors. MAAA can be reached at 1-800-333-2433, or at maaa@metroaging.org.

Two Twin Cities advocacy organizations—Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly (LBFE) and Primer Timers MSP— have also made it their mission to provide warmth, assistance, and compassion to elder adults in the metro area.

The Twin Cities chapter of the France-based Little Brothers boasts eight staff members and an eleven-member volunteer board of directors. The group offers services such as facilitating visits to elders by trained volunteers, who are matched according to their interests and personality. There are also regularly scheduled friendship activities, birthday parties, and holiday dinners that allow older adults better chances to socialize with others and reinforce their support systems.

Primer Timers MSP is a group of gay and bisexual men over the age of 50, as well as their supporters. The organization provides social, educational, and recreational services across the metro area, and sometimes even in greater Minnesota.

LBFE and Primer Timers joined forces in 2012 to address the issue that some of the latter group's members faced isolation and a lack of needed resources. The alliance allows for greater intersectionality in LBFE's outreach in the Twin Cities. Those wishing to donate money or volunteer time to the Twin Cities chapter of Little Brothers can visit www.littlebrothersmn.org. For more information on Primer Timers MSP, visit www.primetimersww.org/ptmsp.

For more resources on assisting elderly members of your community year-round, visit www.diverseelders.org. To find eldercare resources services in your specific region or city, visit www.eldercare.gov, which features the National Eldercare Locator database.

For more information on the Movement Advancement Project, visit www.lgbtmap.org. And for more information on SAGE and resources on assisting GLBT elders, visit www.sageusa.org. ■

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A DAY in the Life

Jaysen Saly

BY ANDY LIEN

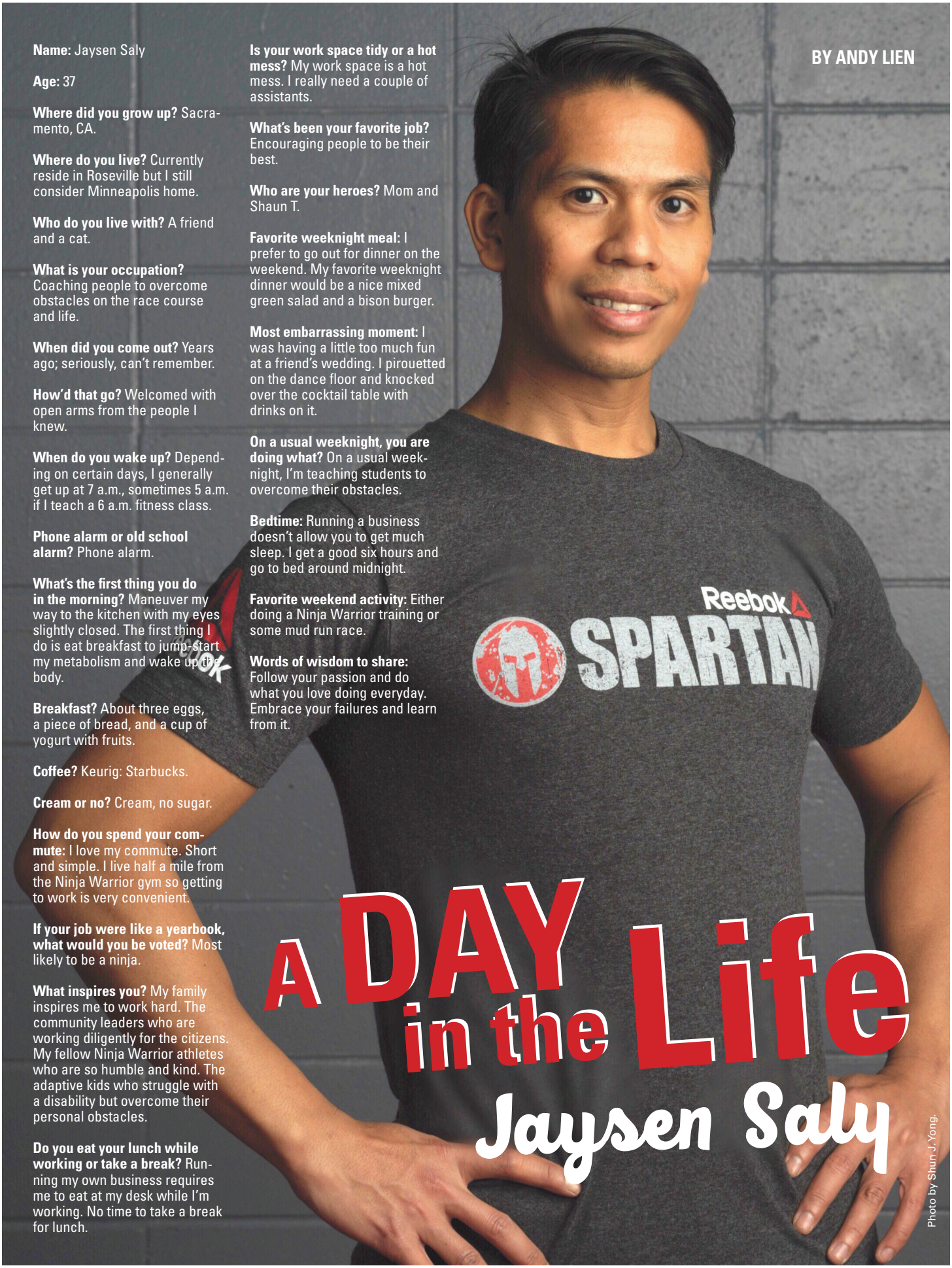

Photo by Shun J. Yong.

Name: Jaysen Saly

Age: 37

Where did you grow up? Sacramento, CA.

Where do you live? Currently reside in Roseville but I still consider Minneapolis home.

Who do you live with? A friend and a cat.

What is your occupation? Coaching people to overcome obstacles on the race course and life.

When did you come out? Years ago; seriously, can't remember.

How'd that go? Welcomed with open arms from the people I knew.

When do you wake up? Depending on certain days, I generally get up at 7 a.m., sometimes 5 a.m. if I teach a 6 a.m. fitness class.

Phone alarm or old school alarm? Phone alarm.

What's the first thing you do in the morning? Maneuver my way to the kitchen with my eyes slightly closed. The first thing I do is eat breakfast to jump-start my metabolism and wake up the body.

Breakfast? About three eggs, a piece of bread, and a cup of yogurt with fruits.

Coffee? Keurig: Starbucks.

Cream or no? Cream, no sugar.

How do you spend your commute: I love my commute. Short and simple. I live half a mile from the Ninja Warrior gym so getting to work is very convenient.

If your job were like a yearbook, what would you be voted? Most likely to be a ninja.

What inspires you? My family inspires me to work hard. The community leaders who are working diligently for the citizens. My fellow Ninja Warrior athletes who are so humble and kind. The adaptive kids who struggle with a disability but overcome their personal obstacles.

Do you eat your lunch while working or take a break? Running my own business requires me to eat at my desk while I'm working. No time to take a break for lunch.

Is your work space tidy or a hot mess? My work space is a hot mess. I really need a couple of assistants.

What's been your favorite job? Encouraging people to be their best.

Who are your heroes? Mom and Shaun T.

Favorite weeknight meal: I prefer to go out for dinner on the weekend. My favorite weeknight dinner would be a nice mixed green salad and a bison burger.

Most embarrassing moment: I was having a little too much fun at a friend's wedding. I pirouetted on the dance floor and knocked over the cocktail table with drinks on it.

On a usual weeknight, you are doing what? On a usual weeknight, I'm teaching students to overcome their obstacles.

Bedtime: Running a business doesn't allow you to get much sleep. I get a good six hours and go to bed around midnight.

Favorite weekend activity: Either doing a Ninja Warrior training or some mud run race.

Words of wisdom to share: Follow your passion and do what you love doing everyday. Embrace your failures and learn from it.

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TRAVEL | BY CARLA WALDEMAR

Mazatlan Harbor. Photos by Carla Waldemar

Mucho Mazatlan

You want sunny beaches? Oh, silly me: as I'm writing for my fellow stoics here in the frozen tundra, it's 22 degrees and snowing. Of course you do.

Mazatlan has beaches.

But unlike those Mexican resort towns purpose-built to lure tourists, Mazatlan has more. The Pearl of the Pacific, as it's called, is a vibrant working city of 475,000, founded in 1531 by those original tourists called Spanish Conquistadors as a working port to send precious metals from the nearby gold and silver mines back from the New World to the Old.

Of course, those conquistadors required houses, and, to convert the locals, pretty churches. Today, the city's Centro Historico is a landscape of those romantic stucco buildings, framed in graceful arches and balconies frilled with intricate wrought iron. They circle its centerpiece, Plaza Machado, shaded by swaying palms and a bandstand where musicians congregate at night. The GLBT also community receives a warm welcome in Mazatlan. Its prime gay bars include Banos Mazatlan Sodomas; Vitrolas; Pepe Toro; and CQ Open Mind, a disco club.

Add in a four-plus-mile ocean boardwalk called the Malecon—newly embellished with palms and streetlights punctuating the widened promenade—and the magic is made clear. By day, folks stroll pasts its majestic outdoor sculptures of dolphins and mermaids and dip toes into the crashing waves below, while at night it's festive, with strolling guitarists and pop-up food stands serving families in their finery out to catch the breeze and the gossip.

For a 360-degree view of the harbor and the city clasped by the green Sierra Madre hills, head to the outdoor bar atop the classic '40s Hotel Freeman anchoring the Malecon, then grab a bite at cosmo Casa Lucilla a few blocks further, where a breakfast of huevos rancheros and frothy cappuccino fuels a day's delightful wander. While it's still cool, discover the Plaza Republica, where shoeshine stands vie to buff up your Adidas before you inspect the Cathedral of 1856 with its fancy stucco façade and jewel-like stained glass. Then turn to Mercado Pino Suarez, teeming with indoor stalls selling gorgeous melons, pyramids of guavas and papayas, fancy pastries, aromatic spices and more, more, more—including brightly striped serapes, tacky souvenirs, and everything Frida, like the Frida Kahlo purse I didn't know I needed, sporting a unibrow portrait of the famous artist.

18th century church dedicated to San Sebastian. Photo by Carla Waldemar

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

Christmas Eve @ Hennepin
2:00 p.m. Carols & Poetry
4:00 p.m. Family Worship & Pageant*
7:00 p.m. Carols & Candles*
10:30 p.m. Prelude Concert
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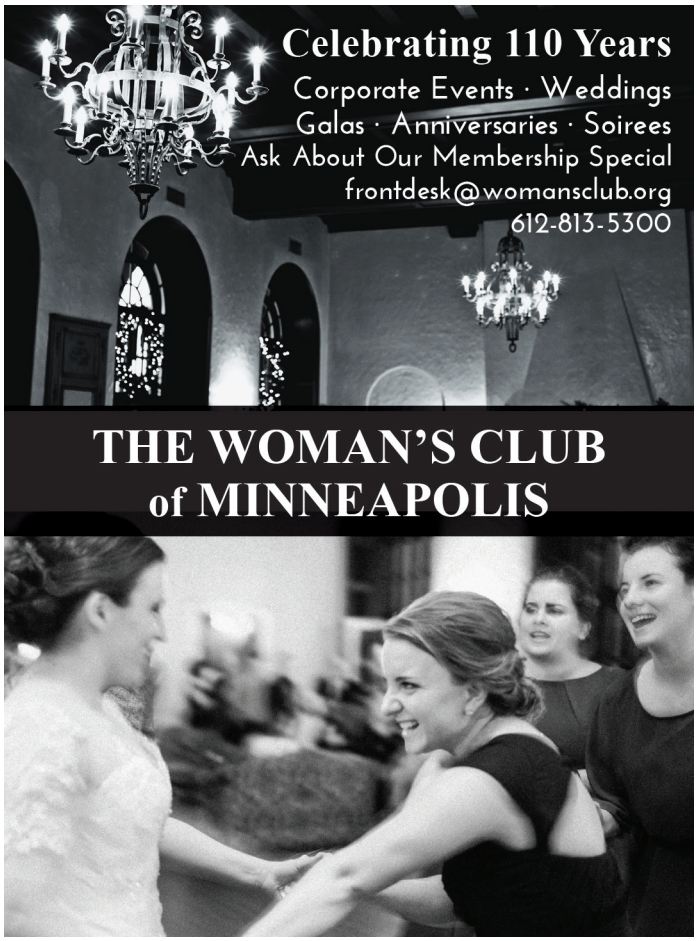
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HEALTH & WELLNESS

Stay Stress-Free for the Holidays

Amidst the hustle and bustle of the holidays, we surround ourselves with family, friends and loved ones. They can bring joy, but also stress. Try these stress-relief tips and take the holiday season in stride.

by Ashley Gulden, PsyD, LP,
North Memorial Health Mental Health

Practice Mindfulness. Immerse yourself fully in relationships and traditions that make the season memorable. Experience the beauty in every moment.

Breathe Deep. Reduce stress by telling your brain to relax. Practice breathing in through your nose while your belly expands and exhaling through your mouth while your belly softens.

Be Thankful. Gratitude reduces stress and depression. Keep a gratitude journal by your bed and write three things you're grateful for each day; express your gratitude verbally or by writing to someone who has impacted your life.

Practice Self-Care. Reduce tension by enjoying a massage, reading or listening to music. Set boundaries with others to maintain what's respectful for you.

Take Time to Feel. It's normal to experience grief or sadness during the holidays. Be sure to express and acknowledge your feelings.

If stress interferes with your life or you feel overwhelmed or hopeless this holiday season, get help from your doctor or mental health expert.

To schedule an appointment, call (763) 581-CARE.

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Return, then, to Plaza Machado to explore the Teatro Angela Peralta and maybe catch a performance, or its cheeky modern art show honoring Mexico's Day of the Dead. By nightfall, the plaza's necklace of cafes springs into action (and their low-low prices are no misprint). Café 46, a newcomer, is a looker with a fascinating menu but lags in service, while venerable Pedro y Lola delivers on all counts, starting with its yummy guac and garlic shrimp (Mazatlan is the shrimp capital of the land) and frosty margaritas or Pacificos (the famed beer is brewed in this town). If it's ocean-fresh ceviche you crave, a little dive called La Perla serves more varieties of sea critters than seen in most aquariums, along with cold Pacificos, which your waiter will deliver from…who knows where? He runs in clasping icy bottles from somewhere down the street.

To escape the civic bustle and enjoy some oceanside solitude, we stayed at a lovely resort half an hour from the town center called Estrella del Mar. Its 900 acres sport tennis courts and golf courses, a spa where magical massages are offered, and a huge, warm pool to paddle after strolling the endless miles of private velvet sand, stopping to gather wave-polished seashells as the surf delivers fresh foam to your ankles. Mornings, it's perfect for spotting dolphins and pelicans patrolling the waters, while at sunset, it's showtime as the orb, glowing like a molten tangerine, slinks slowly below the ocean. Sundown is also the time for the daily release of newly hatched turtles from the property's sanctuary into the Pacific waters, and resort guests are invited to help. Then, time to eat: Estrella's restaurants specialize in mountains of fresh guac, more ceviche, and generous platters of that addictive garlic shrimp.

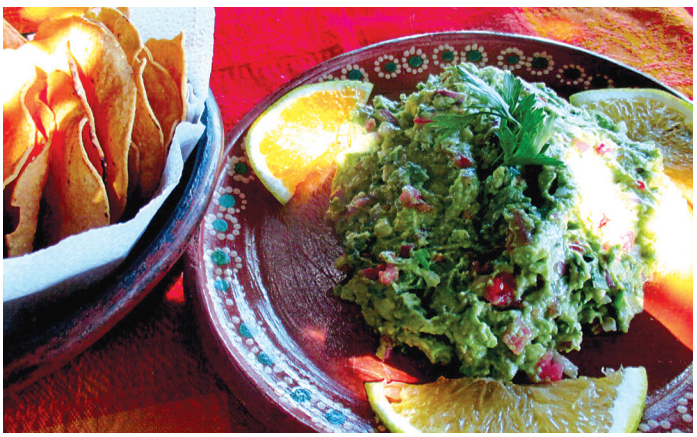
When you tire of the hammock-and-chaise routine, it's time to explore the best of the historic colonial villages nestling in the nearby Sierra Madre Mountains, where tiny El Quelite shines as the area's beauty queen. Its cobblestoned central avenida is lined with camera-ready houses, freshly dressed in stucco of Pepto pink, blaze orange, hazard lime, Prince purple, and swimming-pool aqua, accessorized by fancy ironwork. A saint-clad church stands open next to the central plaza, while across the street beckons the site that makes this town a destination: El Meson de los Laureanos, an irresistible tangle of antiques-laden rooms that serve as the area's best restaurant, starting off with a special coffee scented with oranges and cinnamon. Then on to carnitas, barbacoa, chilaquiles, and chicharron, amid the panoply of Mexican dining icons on offer. The meal starts with sweet corn pancakes and tropical fruit and finishes with a bevy of desserts, from puddings of burnt cream to pineapple, on to candied papaya.

On the return drive, tequila lovers may pause at La Vinata to learn the age-old process, then sip samples of the distillery's La Osuna brand's smooth, barrel-aged products.

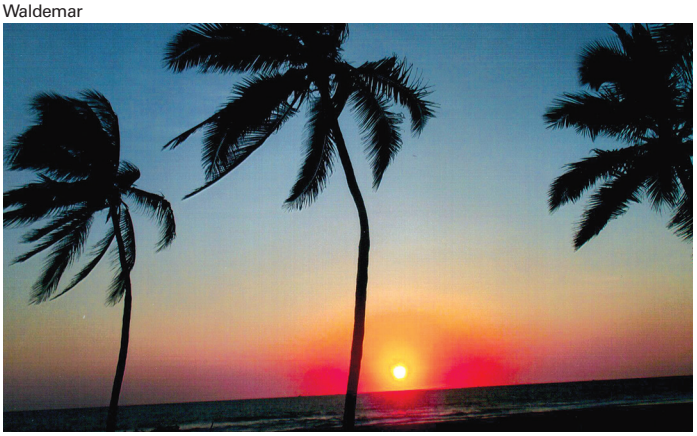
Concordia, an hour southeast, was founded by conquistadors in 1565 and proud of it, as a stroll past its municipal murals demonstrates. But its biggest claim to fame (and so worth it) is its magnificent 18th-century church dedicated to San Sebastian, with every inch of its Baroque stucco façade embellished with tangles of carved images, convoluted pillars, angels with stony gazes. Its single tower bears a giant bell.

Continue to the cobbled streets of tiny (pop. 600) Copola, whose pretty stucco houses date back 350 years to the height of the silver-mining rush that founded the town. Today, it's settled back into a sleepy village anchored by another marvelous church—this one of 1748—whose carvings incorporate pagan symbols (a smiling sun god) as well as an image of the devil, who's instructed not to enter. Nearby, the town's tiny former jail has been converted into a mini-museum of mining tools from its heyday.

Tempted? Making it even easier, Sun Country flies nonstop to Mazatlan from November to April. As Jesus, my driver from Mazatlan's airport, put it, "Your city is too many cold." ■



Guac and chips! Plentiful and cheap at every Mazatlan cafe. Photo by Carla Waldemar



Sunset at Estrella del Mar resort, Mazatlan. Photo by Carla Waldemar

Dolphins are one of many outdoor sculptures along the Malecon (boardwalk). Photo by Carla Waldemar

Gorgeous stucco facades line the street in tiny colonial town El Qelite, Mexico. Photo by Carla Waldemar

What is TRUVADA for PrEP?

TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a prescription medicine that is used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1. To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA for PrEP?

Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting or at any time while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP:**
  - Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months.
  - If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- **To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:**
  - Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
  - Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
  - Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
  - Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV and stop taking TRUVADA, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.** If you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- **Also take** certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA for PrEP?

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA.
- **Too much lactic acid in your blood** (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- **Bone problems,** including bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA for PrEP?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- **If you take certain other medicines** with TRUVADA, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include certain medicines to treat hepatitis C (HCV) infection.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Important Facts about TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.

I'm courageous, not careless.

I know who I am. And I make choices that fit my life.

TRUVADA for PrEP™ is a once-daily prescription medicine that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when taken every day and used together with safer sex practices.

- TRUVADA for PrEP is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex.
- You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Ask your doctor about your risk of getting HIV-1 infection and if TRUVADA for PrEP may be right for you.

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IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about taking TRUVADA for PrEP™ (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. This does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your medicine.

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must be HIV-1 negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-1 negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include flu-like symptoms, tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.** Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you think you were exposed to HIV-1 or have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- See the "How To Further Reduce Your Risk" section for more information.

TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA for PrEP is a prescription medicine used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1.

- To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.**
- Take certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- **Take 1 tablet once a day, every day**, not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- Use TRUVADA for PrEP together with condoms and safer sex practices.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months. You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the "Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP" section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- Bone problems.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight.

These are not all the possible side effects of TRUVADA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP.

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can pass to the baby in breast milk.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRUVADA for PrEP.

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV infection.
- Go to start.truvada.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit start.truvada.com for program information.

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Version date: April 2017

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Produced by Andy Lien,
Written by Kassidy Tarala

The recipients of the Lavender Community Awards were nominated and voted for online in the month of November. Winners demonstrate clear dedication and leadership by being either out or an ally, and working for the advancement of the community that is comprised of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and allied people. Without further ado, we are proud to present the recipients of the 2017 Lavender Community Awards.

JEFF HEINE

Organizational Involvement

TWIN CITIES GAY MEN'S CHORUS

As Executive Director of the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus, Jeff Heine is definitely someone to sing about. Outside of his work in the Twin Cities, Heine is very involved with national choruses. "I consult with leadership of other LGBT choruses in the country through GALA Choruses' 411 Advisor Program. I spend time helping chorus managers and executive directors with the day-to-day to the complex challenges that our nonprofit arts organizations face. I have spent a lot of time helping the Trans Chorus of Los Angeles get up and running," he says. "We provide our singers with musical experiences that are personally rewarding for themselves and their audiences, and a chance to connect with our audiences in a relevant way. We provide a safe space for our singers—even in this day and age, when we've made such progress, the need for a safe and welcoming space is still there. Our vision is that we see a world one day that will truly celebrate equality and inclusion, and we got there through the inspiration of things like our music."

After leaving his corporate life in 2008, Heine was seeking a career that was rewarding and satisfactory.

"My life coach said to me, 'You know that career you were looking for? It's just been handed to you.' And I've never looked back. Our audience is made up of LGBT members of our community, allies, their friends and family. Over the past nine years, I've met people in the audience who, as part of their own journey of self-awareness and identity, come to one of our concerts. It may be part of their coming out journey. It may be a part of their journey as an ally, friend, or family member. Whatever the journey, we have an opportunity to make an impact, a relevant connection, an epiphany that helps them become more comfortable with who they are. When a gay teen comes up to you with tears in their eyes after a concert, and they thank you for telling their story, how can you not end the day with a great feeling?"

As a gay man, Heine understands the importance of the GLBT community, especially the Lavender Community Awards. "I am very honored to receive this community award from Lavender. Having one's work recognized in this way is humbling and appreciated!"

Photo by Mike Hnida

BARB AND PHIL SCHROEDER

Organizational Involvement

EAST CENTRAL PFLAG SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, EAST CENTRAL PFLAG, AND EAST CENTRAL PRIDE

As proud parents of children in the rainbow community, Barb and Phil Schroeder have devoted time and work to East Central Minnesota PFLAG. "East Central Minnesota PFLAG is an all-volunteer organization that provides support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning persons (and those who are perceived to be), their families and friends by being a visible presence in communities across the five-county region of east central Minnesota. Over the years, we have provided monthly support meetings, brought in guest speakers, screened movies, held workshops and other educational events, and have raised awareness and advocated for LGBTQ persons in our communities. Our members understand the coming out journey, and we offer our support and unconditional love to people—especially youth and their parents—at any point in this journey. Two years ago, we started a college scholarship program for self-identifying LGBTQ students from our area high schools. East Central MN Pride gives LGBTQ people, those questioning, and their friends, family and allies an opportunity to meet and build community in an otherwise isolated part of the state. Without the event, we believe there may not exist an 'LGBTQ community.' It began in 2005 when it was just one of two rural prides in the nation," they say.

"We believe there are several ways in which East Central Minnesota Pride and PFLAG have improved the quality of life in this part of the state. It serves the vulnerable, LGBTQ youth populations, especially those who are at-risk, showing that there are other LGBTQ people nearby to offer support and encouragement. It serves as a mechanism for civil rights, by being a visible presence representing LGBTQ people working and living in the five-county area. We also promote tolerance through awareness, education and community dialogue about LGBTQ issues. Again…all of our LGBTQ organizations share this vision and collaborate in doing our work."

The Schroeders enjoy telling their own story to inspire other parents of GLBT children to work alongside them. "The award isn't about us, but to be shared with all of the wonderful people we work with who have helped to build community for LGBTQ people in this part of the state: they include East Central MN Men's Circle, East Central MN Purple Circle, East Central MN Pride and, of course, our PFLAG members and supporters."

Photos courtesy of Barb and Phil Schroeder

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K. JASON BRYAN

Organizational Involvement

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN (HRC)

"In addition to my volunteer work with HRC, I am a member of the Quorum Workplace Alliance and lead the LGBTQ and ally employee group at my work. I have also been a volunteer Ambassador for Dining Out for Life (Aliveness Project) for the past nine years—please look for me at Stewart's in St. Paul this coming April. I am a supporter of Clare Housing. I attended the OutFront MN 30th Anniversary Gala on Nov. 17, which was a wonderful celebration of our vital state LGBTQ equality organization. I have participated in MN AIDS Project's AIDS Walk, volunteered for the MN United campaign, and more. I am going tonight (Nov. 20) to the Transgender Day of Remembrance event, which is so sad, but very moving, and it is so important to go and be an ally to our transgender community. On a fun note, I am part of the LGBTQ Twin Cities Country Dancers group, and do two-step and line dancing every Sunday night at the American Eagle club in the Seward neighborhood."

Clearly, Jason is a busy man. "Volunteering for HRC, I am helping to organize our local community for grassroots activism and fundraising to provide resources to our fight for full federal LGBTQ equality. I was just in Washington, D.C. in October and we held a lobby day where our Minnesota HRC contingent lobbied all ten Minnesota Congressional offices on passing the Equality Act, the bill that will include LGBTQ people in the 1964 Civil Rights Act. We also lobbied for protecting LGBTQ Dreamers and DACA participants, preventing discrimination in the guise of religious freedom, and stopping the enactment of the ban on transgender soldiers serving in the armed forces," he says. "I am a member of the Twin Cities HRC Steering Committee and HRC's National Board of Governors. I started volunteering almost seven years ago, and have served as Diversity co-chair, Political and Community Outreach co-chair, Honorary Committee and Silent Auction co-chair for our annual dinner, and was the co-chair of the HRC Twin Cities Dinner this past September. My co-chair, Jeanine Mlynek, and I will be co-chairs again for the 2018 dinner as well."

Jason's seemingly endless work with the GLBT community comes from his belief that no one in this country is free until everyone is able to live without the fear of violence and discrimination. "I am truly touched, very honored, and humbled to receive this recognition. While I try to be present and connected in our community, I also am not the kind of person who seeks attention for my work. It is just what I do. That someone thought to nominate me is very kind."

Photo by Hubert Bonnet

OUR LAVENDER

LAVENDER LENS
PHOTOS BY SOPHIA HANTZES

Photo by Sophia Hantzes

BINGO A-GOGO: HALLOWEEN BINGO

OCTOBER 28, 2017

Photo by Sophia Hantzes

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NICOLE VANDERHEIDEN

Organizational Involvement

TRANSFORMING FAMILIES MN, COMMON DEFENSE PAC

Not only is Nicole Vanderheiden a board member and the Chief Administrator of Transforming Families MN, but she also busies herself as a spokesperson and organizer for Common Defense PAC.

"I support and advocate for transgender youth and veterans—two groups who are at higher risk of harm than the already astronomical rate of hardship faced by the transgender community in general. Whether I am working with a young person who was expelled from their home or fighting against harmful national policies, I aspire to improve the lives of vulnerable transgender individuals and the LGBTQ+ community in general," she says. "Transforming Families MN is a nonprofit organization fiscally sponsored by OutFront MN. Transforming Families works to change the lives of transgender and gender nonconforming youth and their families through support and advocacy. I do anything from providing direct support to distressed youth, planning fundraisers and outreach events, managing our social media, working with community partners on special projects, organizing advocacy for local or state policy change, or welcoming new families and other contacts. I also help moderate our peer support meetings and online support network and I facilitate a monthly teen group. Common Defense is a progressive political action committee advocating for social, economic, and environmental justice and fighting the hate that often permeates our society.

I lead Common Defense's advocacy efforts on transgender issues for current military service members, veterans, and their families. Currently we are working to combat the current administration's transgender military ban and a Department of Veteran Affairs policy banning the provision of medically necessary transition-related care for veterans who receive their healthcare from VA hospital systems. I am a former Staff Sergeant (SSgt) of the U.S. Air Force. I served for six years as an Arabic language intelligence analyst and participated in the most recent Iraq campaign, working to limit civilian deaths by undermining violent terrorist organizations and their operations targeting the civilian population," she says.

Vanderheiden says that her personal experiences with homelessness, mental health issues, and oppression for being transgender make a special place in her heart for youth and veterans facing the same issues.

Photo by Walter Hergt

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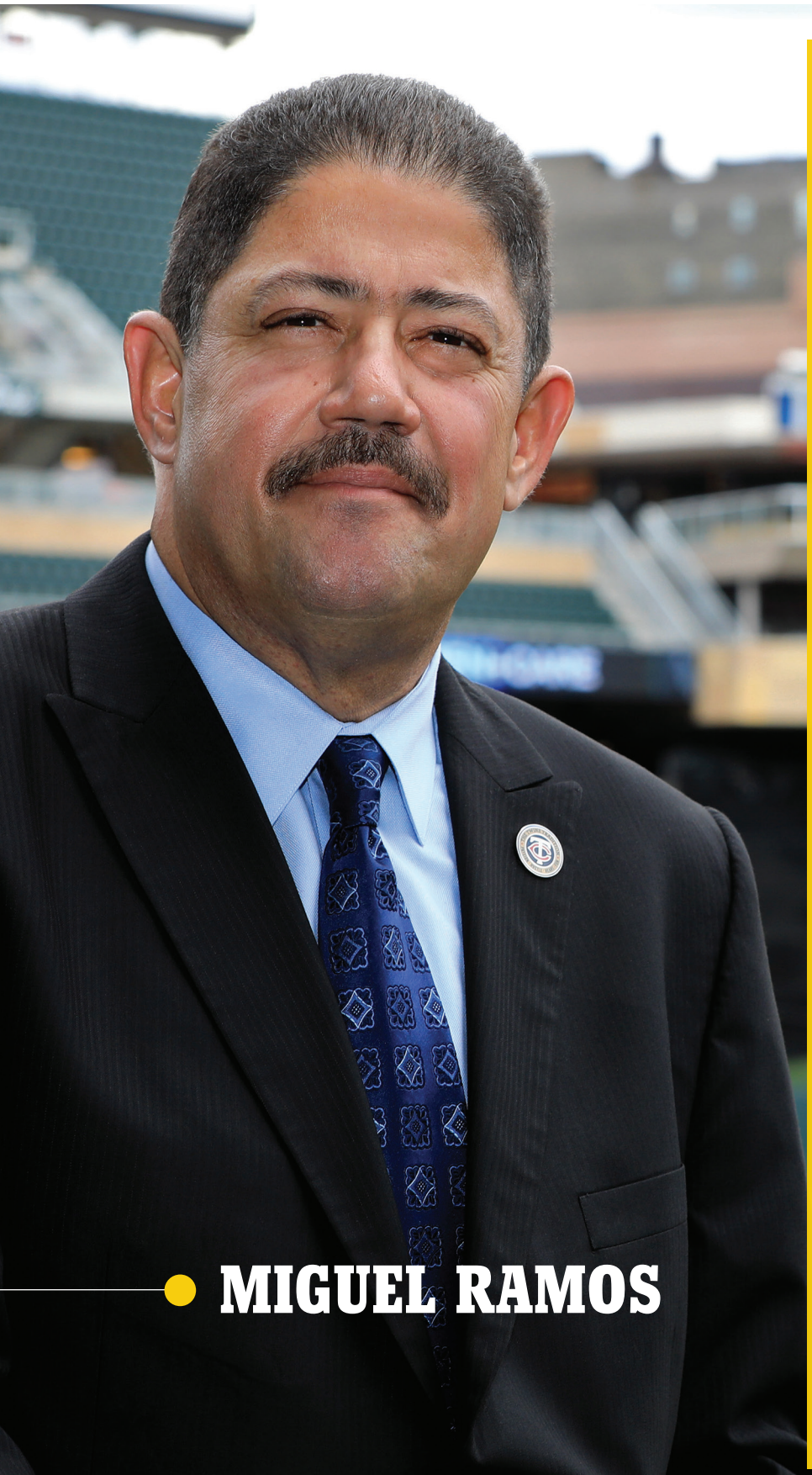


MIGUEL RAMOS

Organizational Involvement

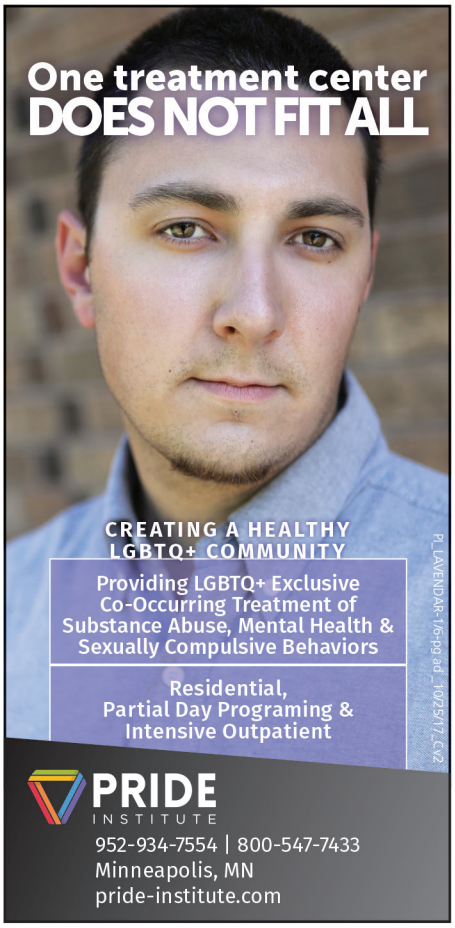
MINNESOTA TWINS

Miguel Ramos just might be the most important player for the Minnesota Twins. As the Director of Diversity and Inclusion Strategies, Ramos works to provide an inclusive environment for everyone. "I have been involved in many initiatives and community organizations for many years. For example, I support Green Card Voices, an organization whose mission is to utilize digital storytelling to share personal narratives of America's immigrants, establishing a better understanding between the immigrant and non-immigrant communities. We want to change perceptions about immigrant communities and share the real story of the why they are here, their challenges, and successes. I am also a board member of the Saint Paul and Minnesota community foundations. With over $700 million at The Saint Paul Foundation, they are the largest community foundation in the state, and among the top 20 in the nation. I work with the Boricuas in Minnesota Coalition, a group of Puerto Rican leaders and organizations helping to send food, medicine, water and more to families in Puerto Rico affected by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Also, I do public speaking about diversity and inclusion with government and counties staff, nonprofits, corporations and universities.

I believe it is more than just how you connect with minorities. It's developing a relationship built on mutual respect. It's mentorship and supporting youth and minorities that asked for advice in how they can achieve their personal and professional goals. It's helping people to connect with opportunities around what we do," he says. "Before and while with the Minnesota Twins, I have worked to find the best way to expand the message of unity, respect, and collaboration through the diversity and inclusion message. I always work to emphasize the importance of this message with the goal of building unity in diversity. I believe that diversity and inclusion cannot be a box that is simply checked one time a year. It is a commitment. It is about respecting others' ideas and beliefs. It is about building an environment where we all feel appreciated and part of the process. Working with the Twins brings me the opportunity to deliver that the message more deeply and to open more doors and opportunities to a bigger audience."

Through the work Ramos does in the GLBT community, he is working toward one goal: equality. "I believe that every human is unique and has a right to be successful. We shouldn't criticize anyone who thinks or looks differently or has different beliefs than ours. We should respect and treat all people in the same way we wish to be treated. I understand we all have challenges, but at the end what makes us similar is who we are, one human race."

Photo courtesy of Miguel Ramos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JILL PAVLAK AND DEB LOCH

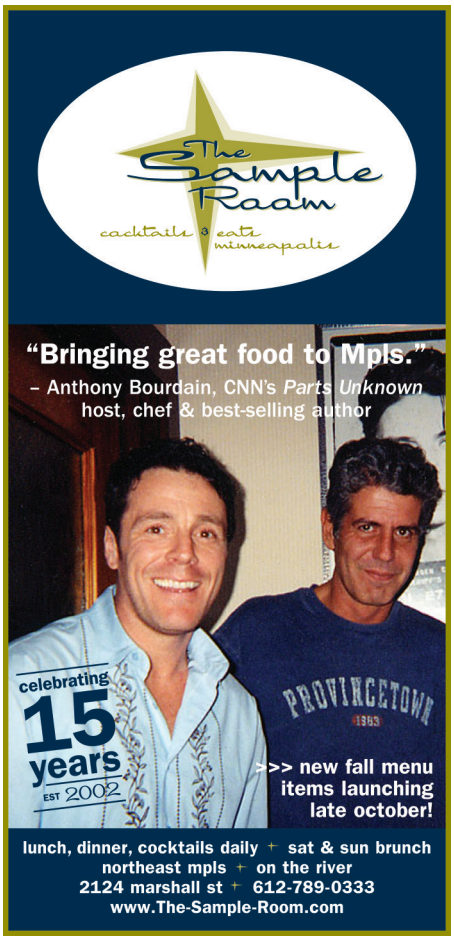
Organizational Involvement

URBAN GROWLER BREWING COMPANY

"We live, eat, and breathe our brewery." This statement alone could probably sum up the dedication Deb Loch and Jill Pavlak have for Urban Growler and the GLBT community. "We hope we are making our community proud. We came up with the idea to start a brewery during a very divisive time—politically and religiously. The Catholic Church had mailed out CDs trying to encourage people to vote against the marriage amendment. We were both raised Catholic; no longer practicing, but we're both still saddened by the church's stance and thought, if people would just sit down with us and have a beer they would realize there is nothing to be afraid of. We all want the same things from life: to be loved and accepted. Period. So, the idea to open a brewery to bring people together through beer was born. All are welcome here. Period."

Despite their busy schedules at Urban Growler, the two still find time to give back to the community. "As I mentioned, we live, eat, and breathe our brewery, so we don't have much time to get involved in other organizations. So we do what we can to bring the organizations to us. We do PhilanthroBrews, fundraisers for nonprofits that fit with what we value: schools, women and girls organizations, animal rescues, and the elderly," they say. "We think it's cool to be given an award for being true to yourself, your mission, and your values. We will continue to do what we can to make the community proud. We SINCERELY appreciate all the support from the LGBTQ and ally community."

Photo by Liken Studios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ZAYLORE SAPPHOS STOUT

Organizational Involvement

HIV+, RECLAIM, AND LGBT LAW CLINIC

As if Zaylore Sapphos Stout isn't busy enough with the work he does with HIV+, RECLAIM, and LGBT Law Clinic, he has found plenty of other ways to get involved in the GLBT community. "I've also been working to get a Gender Inclusion Policy passed through the St. Louis Park School Board to protect transgender and gender non-conforming students. I coordinated the counter protest against the Westboro Baptist Church June 7, 2017. I ran as an out candidate in the St. Louis Park City Council race this year. I was a featured speaker at this year's National Coming Out Day luncheon alongside Judy Shepard. I'm also writing a book focused on LGBT history that's scheduled to be released next year," he says. "I'm a member of the Allies of St. Louis Park, which is a community action organization focused on issues like social justice, equity, and diversity. As a member of the St. Louis Park Human Rights Commission, I worked to advise the city council on how to ensure equal opportunity and participation in housing, employment, public service, public accommodations, and education. I'm also a member of Quorum, which is the Twin Cities GLBT + Allied Chamber of Commerce. Through Quorum, I've become the first Minnesota law firm to become an LGBTBE. As a board member of the Small Business Advisor Board, I provide free monthly business educational luncheons, workshops, advertising opportunities for sponsors, advisory board for hire services, and client matching services between investors and investees."

For Stout, giving back to the community isn't even a question. "I give back because I can. I'm in the position, career, and community I am because of the support I received from my 'chosen family.' As a youth, I didn't see or have role models from our community. I'd like for that to not be the experience of today's youth. Each generation should leave the next in better hands, with better cultural competency, and a more accepting worldview. Hopefully my impact on our community will be long felt well after I'm gone," he says. "I'm extremely humbled to receive this award. I hope it encourages other adults within the community to get active in local politics and service as resources to the youth. I also hope we as a community can finally come together and support each other as opposed to infighting. It shouldn't be more difficult to come out as bisexual or transgender to your gay/lesbian friends than it is to come out as gay or lesbian to your straight friends. We can't be defeated if we are all standing together as one!"

Photo by Dustyn Davis

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ARTS & CULTURE | BY E.B. BOATNER

We Are All Ebenezer Scrooge

Photo by Dan Norman

For 52 of 56 performances of A Christmas Carol in 2017, Nathanial Fuller is the iconic miser-cum- misanthrope, Ebenezer Scrooge. It's a demanding role, even for Fuller, who has Scrooged five times before, and who earlier this year shared the royal crown with Stephen Yoakam in the Guthrie's harrowing King Lear.

Five previous Guthrie Scrooges (a.k.a. the "Ebenezer Club") concurred on Carol's exigencies in a recent Star Tribune interview, Peter Michael Goetz recalling, "You're running up and down a staircase… keeping your breath control is always a major concern. I'd be panting… It's grueling, like Hamlet or Willy Loman."

Fuller corroborated, "There aren't quite as many lines as Lear, but Scrooge goes through the whole gamut of emotions. He goes through a great deal of pain, when the past is brought up and he has to confront his own death. Then, when he's converted at the end, he's insanely happy."

So, as is often done in taxing parts, it was planned ahead that Fuller's understudy would step in for four performances. The understudy, Charity Jones, knew Carol well, and had in fact—bedecked in golden curls, flowing white gown, and tiara—performed Ghost of Christmas Past to Goetz's 2003 Scrooge.

Lauren Keating, associate producer for the Guthrie Theater and Carol director, explained her gendered casting choice: "I'm looking for the strongest, most versatile actor, who best understands the story I'm aiming to tell. Charity is all those things in spades."

Keating added that there was no explicit casting plan, "But much like color-conscious casting and diversity in our companies of actors and designers, we are committed to seeking the strongest artist for each and every role—again, to bring the highest possible quality of work to our audience."

"To speak for the Carol company, we're all incredibly excited," Keating said. "We've had the opportunity to do a run with Charity in the rehearsal room, as well as a tech rehearsal. I have found the atmosphere to be electric when she's onstage."

It definitely was at Jones' debut. She lacked nothing in stamina, steely-eyed skinflintedness, distaste for humanity in general and the poor in particular. Her "Are there no jails? Are there no poorhouses?" chilled.

The distinction between understudy Jones and Fuller's Scrooges was not one of gender, but of simple physical stature, a factor that lent unexpected emotional power to Jones's performance. Though agile on the staircase, the slighter Scrooge hinted at the vulnerability behind his bulwarks against the world. Beside Tiny Tim, the two illustrated a heartbreaking shared mortality, while the reformed Scrooge's happy jig was light, ethereal, evoking Fuller's "insanely happy" comment.

The draining hourglass, the urgency of Scrooge's plight, were intensified by Crispin Whittell's lean adaptation of the Dickens novella. Leaving enough traditional dancing and jollity, it was made clear that Ebenezer stood at a mortal crossroads: would the empty chair, the abandoned crutch, his unattended funeral be the future?

Jones performed with pathos and panache. As the standing ovation rang out, the Ebenezer Club could proudly claim a new member. ■

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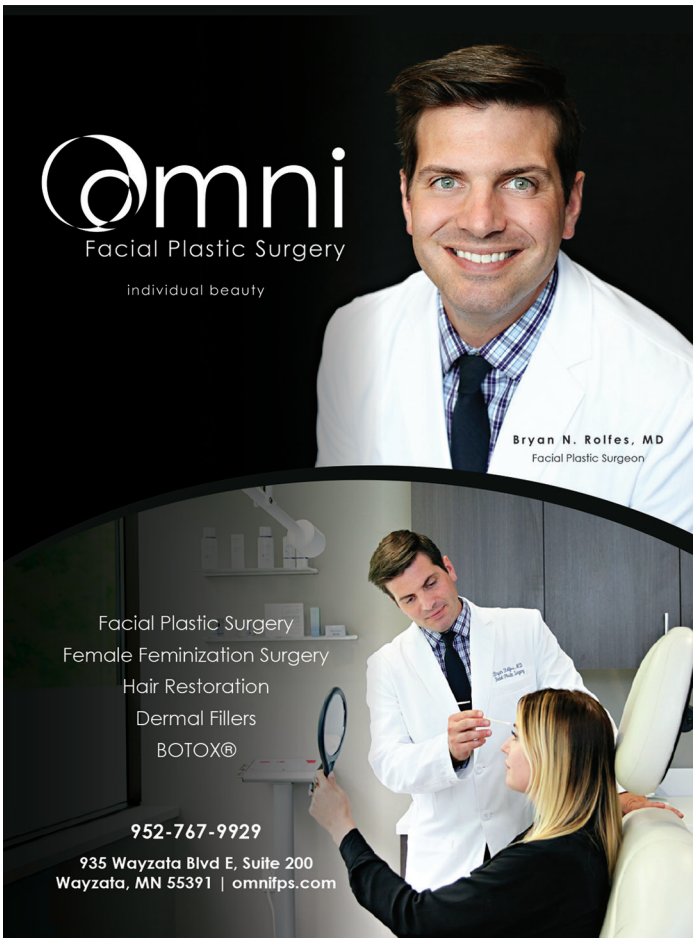
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YEAR 2017 IN REVIEW

SPOTLIGHT

BY JOHN TOWNSEND

GLBT content wove itself boldly and subtly into Twin Cities Theater in 2017. Homophobic shame haunted Theatre in the Round Players' breathtaking *Suddenly Last Summer* and the enduring love between Alice B. Toklas and Gertrude Stein exuded throughout PRIME Productions' *Little Wars*. In contrast, gay content blended into larger contexts: a web-surfer's homoerotic yearnings in the Jungle's electrifying *The Nether.* Moments of workplace homophobia in Mixed Blood's crackling *How to Use a Knife*. LBJ's abandonment of a loyal gay aide in History Theatre's dazzling *All the Way*.

Then there is codified commentary: Theatre Coup d'Etat's *The Baltimore Waltz*, impelled by the 1988 death by AIDS complications of playwright Paula Vogel's gay brother. The same troupe also rendered the year's best cross-gender production, *Moby Dick*, adapted from gay master novelist Herman Melville's classic. Cross-gender casting was also vibrantly featured in Theater Latté Da's *Peter and the Starcatcher*. Major gay sources were also produced. Craig Lucas's book for the musical, *An American in Paris* at the Ordway. Composer Stephen Sondheim's *Sunday in the Park* with George at the Guthrie. The late gay composer Michael Friedman's boys hockey musical, *The Abominables* at Children's Theatre Company. And Margaret Edson's profound *Wit*, staged by Artistry, just feels like a work only a lesbian could have written.

✪ PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR

Kimberly Richardson, *The Red Shoes* in a solo portrayal, Open Eye Theatre

✪ BEST PRODUCTIONS

1. *How to Use a Knife*, Mixed Blood Theatre
2. *Suddenly Last Summer*, Theatre in the Round Players
3. *The Nether*, Jungle Theater
4. *Watch on the Rhine*, Guthrie Theater
5. *Moby Dick*, Theatre Coup d'Etat
6. *The Bluest Eye*, Guthrie Theater
7. *All the Way,* History Theatre
8. *Life's a Parade*, Red Eye Theater
9. *The Abominables*, Children's Theatre Company
10. (3-way tie)
5 Weeks, Pangea World Theater, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, Theater Latté Da and *Wedding Band*, Penumbra Theatre

✪ BEST SHOWS FROM OUT OF TOWN

An American in Paris, Ordway Center
The King and I, Hennepin Theatre Trust
Mala, Guthrie Theater

How to Use a Knife. Photo by Rich Ryan

✪ BEST DIRECTOR

Allen Hamilton, *Suddenly Last Summer*, Theatre in the Round Players

✪ BEST LEAD ACTOR (TIE)

Zack Myers, *How to Use a Knife*, Mixed Blood Theatre
Stephen Yoakam, *The Nether*, Jungle Theater

✪ BEST LEAD ACTRESS (TIE)

Annette Kurek, *Suddenly Last Summer*, Theatre in the Round Players
Sally Wingert, *Wit,* Artistry

5 Weeks. Photo by Bruce Silcox

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38

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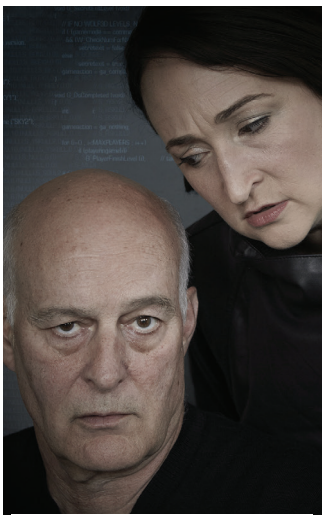

The Nether. Photo by William Clark

Moby Dick. Photo by Craig James Hostetler

✪ BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR (TIE)

Ansa Akyea, *How to Use a Knife*, Mixed Blood Theatre
Eric Knutson, *Idiot's Delight*, Girl Friday Productions

✪ BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS (TIE)

Stephanie Berry, *The Bluest Eye*, Guthrie Theater
Sun Mee Chomet, *King Lear*, Guthrie Theater
Miriam Laube, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*, Mixed Blood Theatre

✪ MASTERFUL PERFORMANCES IN THE INTERPRETATION OF LANGUAGE

Charity Jones, *King Lear & Romeo and Juliet*, Guthrie Theater
Annette Kurek & Ryan D. Maddux, *Suddenly Last Summer*, Theatre in the Round Players

✪ BEST CROSS-GENDER PERFORMANCE (TIE)

Meagan Kedrowski, *Moby Dick*, Theatre Coup d'Etat
Craig Johnson, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, Theater Latté Da

✪ BEST MOVEMENT DIRECTION

Sandra Augustin, *5 Weeks*, Pangea World Theater

Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley. Photo by Dan Norman

CONTINUED ON PAGE 40

LAVENDER LENS
PHOTOS BY SOPHIA HANTZES

Photo by Sophia Hantzes

BISEXUAL ORGANIZING PROJECT BECAUSE 2017 CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 12, 2017

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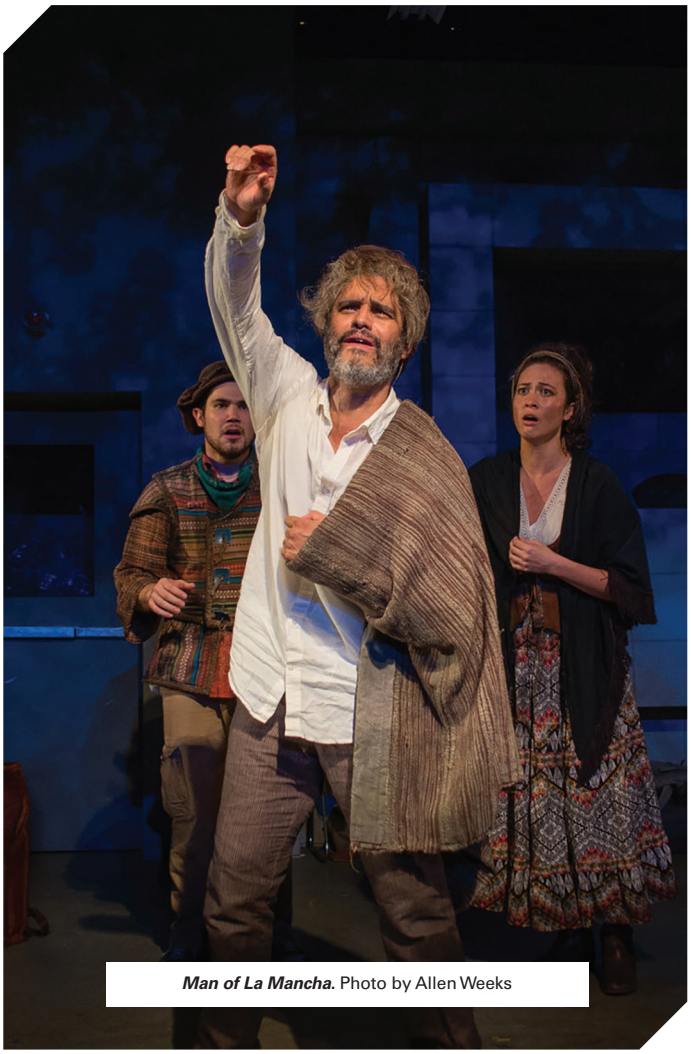
BEST MUSIC DIRECTION
Jamie White Jachimiec, *Moby Dick*, Theatre Coup d'Etat

BEST SET DESIGN
Lee Savage, *The Nether*, Jungle Theater

BEST COSTUME DESIGN (TIE)
Lauren Diesch, *Moby Dick*, Theatre Coup d'Etat
Swapna Haldar and Kuljeet Kaur, *5 Weeks*, Pangea World Theater

BEST LIGHTING
Michael Wangen, *5 Weeks*, Pangea World Theater

BEST SOUND DESIGN
Skyler Nowinski, *Life's a Parade*, Red Eye Theater



Man of La Mancha. Photo by Allen Weeks

Wedding Band. Photo by Allen Weeks

BEST PROJECTIONS DESIGN
Kathy Maxwell, *The Nether*, Jungle Theater

BEST ROMANTIC CHEMISTRY
Christian Bardin and Ju-Coby Johnson, *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberly,* Jungle Theater
Jacqueline Correa and Dan Domingues, *Native Gardens*, Guthrie Theater

OUTSTANDING PLAYWRITING
James Napoleon Stone, *Moby Dick*, an adaptation of the Herman Melville novel, Theatre Coup d'Etat

OUTSTANDING NEW MUSICAL CREATION
Steve Cosson and Michael Friedman, *The Abominables*, Children's Theatre Company

OUTSTANDING LEAD ACTRESSES
Candace Barrett Birk, *Little Wars*, PRIME Productions
Dame-Jasmine Hughes, *Wedding Band,* Penumbra Theatre
Meghan Kreidler, *Man of La Mancha*, Theater Latté Da
Erin Mackey, *Sunday in the Park With George*, Guthrie Theater
Miriam Must, *Life's a Parade*, Red Eye Theater
Mo Perry, *The Nether,* Jungle Theater
Stacia Rice, *Idiot's Delight,* Girl Friday Productions

OUTSTANDING LEAD ACTORS
MacGregor Arney, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, Mixed Blood Theatre
Jason Ballweber, *One Man, Two Guvnors,* Yellow Tree Theatre
Pearce Bunting, *All the Way*, History Theatre
Nathaniel Fuller, *King Lear*, Guthrie Theater
Martin Sola, *Man of La Mancha*, Theater Latté Da

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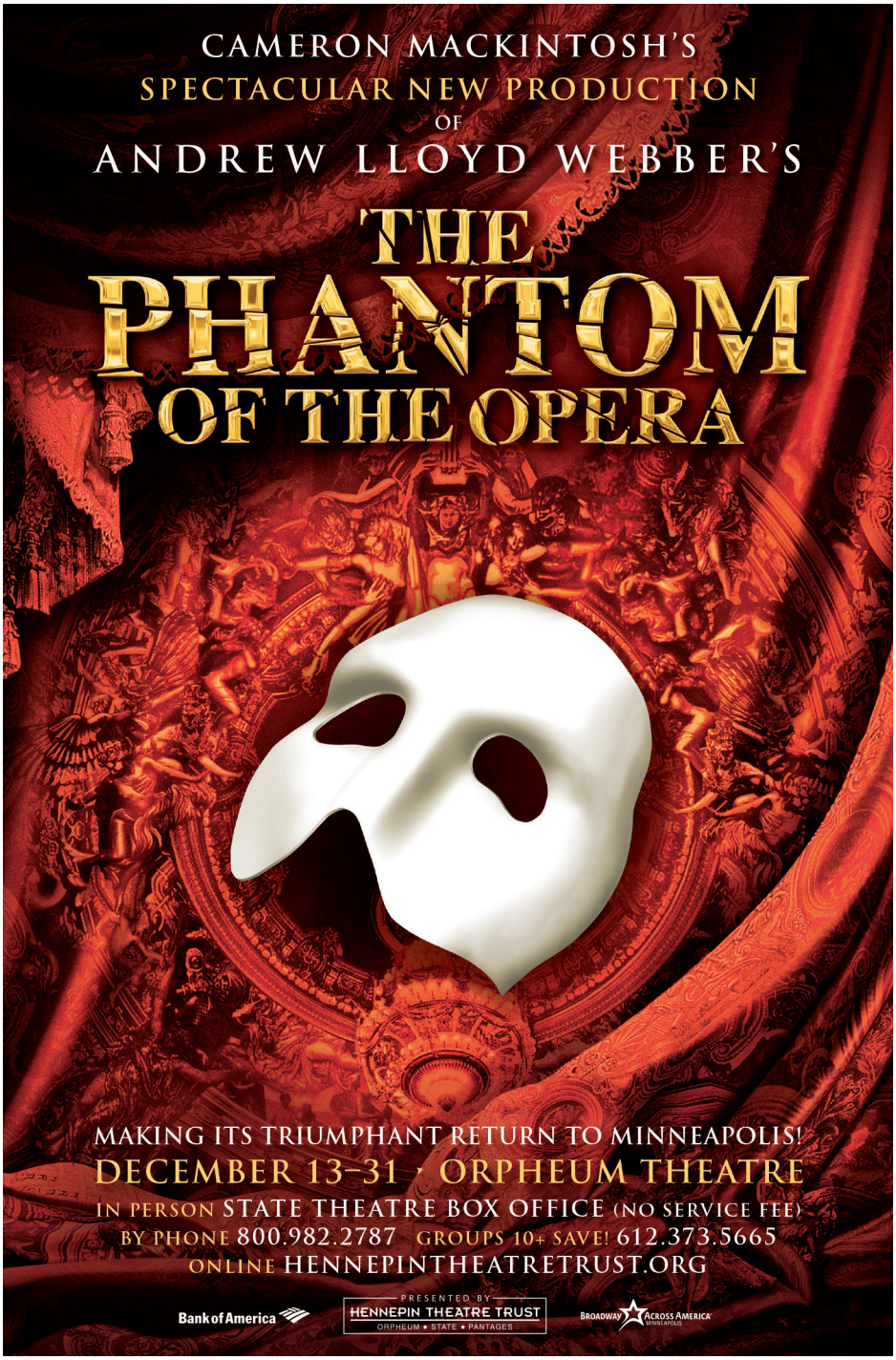


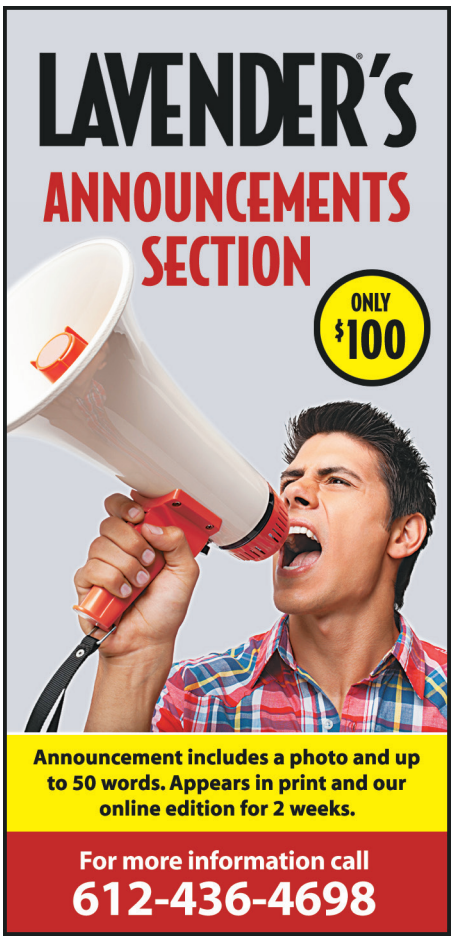
✪ OUTSTANDING SUPPORTING ACTRESSES

Jamila Anderson, *All the Way*, History Theatre
Muriel J. Bonertz, *Suddenly Last Summer*, Theatre in the Round Players
Elizabeth Efteland, *Red Velvet*, Walking Shadow Theatre Company
George Keller, *Wedding Band*, Penumbra Theatre
Karen Wiese-Thompson, *Idiot's Delight*, Girl Friday Productions

✪ OUTSTANDING SUPPORTING ACTORS

Thomas Brazzle, *King Lear,* Guthrie Theater
Patrick Coyle, *Fool for Love*, Dark & Stormy Productions
Kip Dooley, *The Baltimore Waltz*, Theatre Coup d' Etat
Shawn Hamilton, *The Bluest Eye*, Guthrie Theater
Adam Scarpello, *Moby Dick*, Theatre Coup d'Etat. ■

Life's a Parade. Photo by Søren Olsen



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YEAR 2017 IN REVIEW

RIDE REVIEW: VEHICLES OF THE YEAR

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RANDY STERN

Chevrolet Corvette

Honda Ridgeline

Hyundai Elantra Sport

Lexus RC F

This past year has been a very busy one for this column. Two automotive issues and a lot of very important vehicles showed up in these pages.

As with every year-end issue, I have to decide which ones were the best above all. This is not an easy task; however, I have chosen nine out of 17 vehicles reviewed in Lavender. Let's just start with an icon.

CHEVROLET CORVETTE

It was not a fresh new 2017 (or 2018) model that we reviewed, but a very well cared for, low-mileage 2014 Stingray that still provided the sensation and essence of the breed. In its 65th year, the Chevrolet Corvette is a car every American car person must drive in their lifetime. It does not have to be a C7 (seventh generation—the current model) or something high-powered (Z06, for example). It just has to be a Corvette.

HONDA RIDGELINE

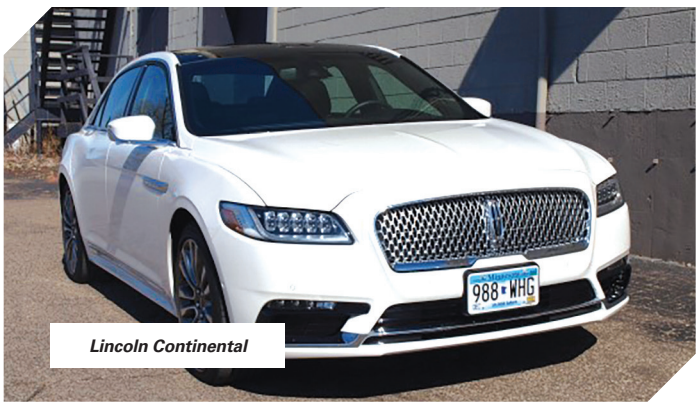
It upsets the traditional truck crowd by doing things that are different, such as building the entire vehicle on a platform shared with a unibody SUV and a minivan. It is engineered as a front-drive vehicle with a solid all-wheel system. It is comfortable; more so than the other traditional mid-sized pickups. Then there's the trunk inside the bed. You can throw bags of ice and bottles of your favorite beverage for a tailgate. Oh, and that tailgate can swing down or off to the side. For being different, it is quite good at what it does.

HYUNDAI ELANTRA SPORT

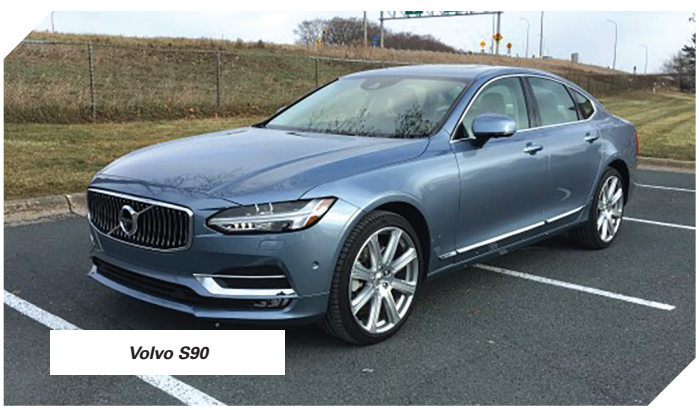
The Elantra is a good car as is. This is the icing on that cake: a 201-horsepower turbocharged four-cylinder engine that rivals in power with some of the hottest compacts in the market. It also boasts a tauter suspension and well-bolstered seats. When you find yourself at your local Hyundai dealer, check one out and be pleasantly surprised.

LEXUS RC F

This contributing writer wanted to share with you one of my favorite automobiles. It remains as such for many reasons. One does not need something exotic to satisfy the soul. Nor does someone have to step up into another universe for a superb performance and driving experience. It's a confident coupe that makes any drive an experience. Let me invite you to try one out. You'll understand what I'm all about with this car.


Lincoln Continental

Subaru Impreza


Volvo S90

Volvo V90 Cross Country

Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV

✪ LINCOLN CONTINENTAL

It is more than just the return of the nameplate. The newest Continental honors its past by re-imagining one of the best American luxury cars ever: the 1961-65 Lincoln Continental. It does not achieve this by flash and presence. The Continental offers performance, technology, and comfort that luxury car buyers want, especially when equipped with the twin-turbocharged V6, all-wheel drive, active suspension, and its array of superb appointments. The Continental has returned, and it should be driven to be loved as we loved it.

✪ VOLVO S90

A modern interpretation of the iconic large Volvo we loved back in the 1980s; yet it's so sleek, handsome, advanced, and athletic, not to mention superbly appointed and luxurious. It's fantastic, but there's some news to share. For 2018, they extended the wheelbase for a larger rear seating area. Longer wheelbases usually provide a smoother ride, which could put this S90 into the hands of limousine and livery operators. Rather, a family who wants to luxuriate in a fine automobile will be right at home in this Swedish luxury sedan.

✪ SUBARU IMPREZA

One of the best in its class right now. WardsAuto named it with one of the best interiors of any vehicle sold in the U.S. It also offers superb style and superior all-wheel drive traction as standard. There is the highly practical five-door and the sweet sedan. Put it all together and you may just have one of the best cars in its class. Mark another Subaru for your consideration!

✪ VOLVO V90 CROSS COUNTRY

Take the S90 and convert it into a wagon. Raise it a few inches off the ground, put on larger tires and some plastic cladding. What Volvo created was not only the return of their large wagon, but a paean to the original Cross Country. It is a capable machine that can be a great companion for a winter outing or a summer camping trip. Its performance also turns an average fuel economy that won't break the bank. This Swedish wagon could be the right antidote for the SUV.

✪ MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER PHEV

It is one of the best value propositions among electrified vehicles. The automotive industry is trending towards plug-in and other electrified vehicles. The Outlander PHEV offers a great value with its two-motor electric drive system, a solid and efficient four-cylinder engine, comfortable seating for five people, and extensive warranty coverage at an attainable price. This is the best value in plug-in vehicles right now. ■

YEAR 2017 IN REVIEW

SKIRTING THE ISSUES: ORDINARY HEROES

What makes for a hero?

I'm talking real-life, human-inspiring heroes; not ones that social media manufactures or people to whom others latch on to because of their fame or money.

Think humans who stand up to injustice, who seek to right wrongs, and who have something to lose for doing that.

A real hero can be someone "ordinary," whose brave act or decision puts something dear to them at risk, such as their job, family, or life.

When I think of a hero, I think of the woman who stood up in a recent "Transgender 101" training I conducted with Wisconsin human resource managers. The woman—whom I'll call "Terri"— spoke about how her boss had made a disparaging remark about transgender people. What the boss didn't know was that Terri was the mother of a 13-year-old transgender son (female to male).

As Terri explained, "I had to make a decision on whether to let the comment go by, or whether to instead stand up for my son."

She chose the latter, braver course. Doing so, she was certain, would put her job at risk.

Terri told a pin-drop-quiet conference hall with 110 listeners how she composed a three-page email laying out what it means to be transgender. She dispelled some of the misperceptions about trans people and wrote how she needed to respectfully point out her boss's ignorance because of her love for her son. When she got done typing and revising, she fretted about the potential consequences of being so assertive with the man who held the keys to her economic future.

Then she hit "send."

Within minutes, Terri's boss knocked at her office door. Shutting the door behind him, he sat down. As he did so, Terri thought to herself, "This is it. This is where I lose my job."

The boss took off his glasses and began to cry. "I had no idea," he said to Terri. "No idea at all—about your son, about transgender people, about anything you wrote."

Terri relaxed as her heart soared.

"Thank you for educating me," the boss said.

As Terri told her story, I looked around the room and saw many dabbing tissues to wet eyes. This is the power of a hero—the power to touch, to teach, and to inspire.

There are other heroes that I've encountered as of late, like the county HR director in a conservative Midwest state who brought me in to train on human inclusivity. She did so even though she suspected that some of her team members might object on religious grounds to having me—a woman who is transgender and who doesn't "pass" 100 percent—as the trainer. Yet, she bravely had me come train anyway. (And for sure, some of the reviews—where one writer was appalled by my "transgenderism" and others called me "him" and "he"—bore out the HR director's suspicion.)

Then there's Mary Bridget Lawson, who in the late 1980s and early '90s was the first "out" lesbian in the St. Louis County, Minnesota administration workforce. Understanding that St. Louis County is darn big (and extends to such liberal places as Virginia, Minnesota), Mary Bridget cut the path for countless people—GLBT and persons of color—who otherwise would have a much tougher go of it.

Finally, consider Eli Umpierre, who in the early 1990s was the first female police officer (and "out" lesbian) on the Rochester, Minnesota police department roster. After working her way up to lieutenant, Eli one day chose to speak out about a Puerto Rican police officer who had been passed over for promotion four times in favor of less qualified white officers. She knew that highlighting institutional racism would put her at risk; ultimately, it cost Eli her job. She didn't take that laying down by any means, and filed a human rights claim against the city. Three months ago, she settled that claim for nearly $1 million in exchange for her resigning from the department.

Certainly, justice was served with Eli's settlement, but the incident cost Eli a career that she loved. Heroes, it's clear, sometime pay big prices for their heroism.

The next time you meet a hero, tell them how much you appreciate their bravery. You never know when their heroism will benefit you or those you love. ■

Ellen (Ellie) Krug is the author of Getting to Ellen: A Memoir about Love, Honesty and Gender Change *(2013). She speaks and trains on diversity and inclusion topics; visit www.elliekrug.com where you can also sign up for her newsletter, The Ripple. She welcomes your comments at ellenkrugwriter@gmail.com.*

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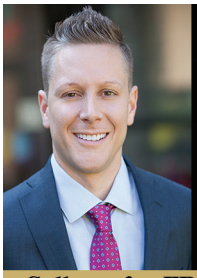

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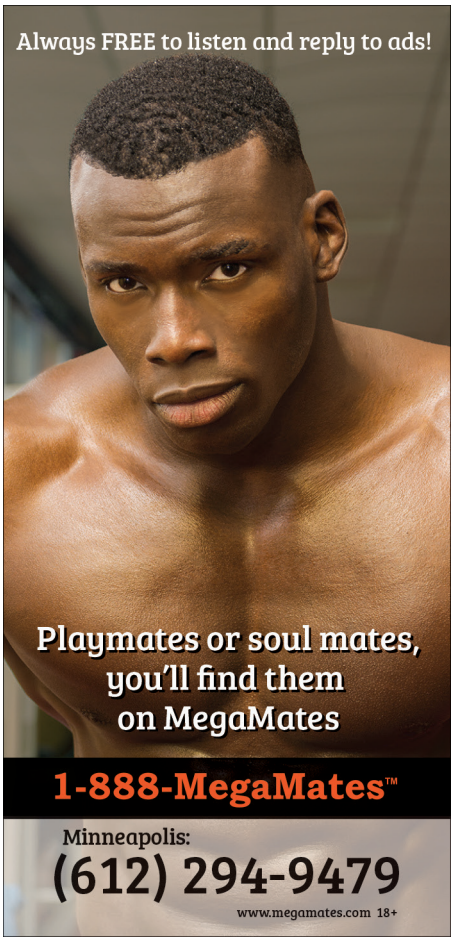

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